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Far beyond? Six years ago, he suggested to Community Leader and Actor Edward James Olmos ideas that became the Latino Book and Family Festival. Wherever it goes—Chicago, Los Angeles, Houston, San Jose, San Diego, New York—Rueben's books anchor a "Book Village" that contributes directly to the goal of encouraging Latino parents to read to their children and children themselves to read. Families come by the thousands.

Acting on his own advice, he reaches for future generations with a unique emporium of children's books just cross-the-alley from his Santa Ana bookstore. It is full of color and lined with stories in Spanish and English . . . and Vietnamese, Cambodian, Chinese, and . . .

It all makes you wonder. Which is its purpose. Rueben's life is an open book he seems to read like a child. He turns pages, laughs and says, "What's this?" Then he tries to tell you he knew it all the time . . . that he planned it.

He is a strong believer we all should write down our goals. He writes his down. No one could have that many! And do credit to them, too.

On a coast-to-coast TV program, he commanded fathers to be perfect husbands: "Take out the trash and read to your children!" He, is a sought-after motivational speaker, a consultant to publishers, a friendly prod to writers and artists, an energizer to teachers and a media personality.

The biggest independent bookstore in Orange County, California, began as a few books for customers in a barber shop. Now he carpets the space next door with kids eager to be read to.

Rueben's life is an open book with one new chapter after another. He reads on and says, "Amazing!" And then, "That's me, too!"

VICTOR STRINGS WORDS TO COMPUTE LIFE x 13
(By Galal Kernahan)

As Victor Villasenor emerged from adolescence, his parents sent him to Mexico City. He was overwhelmed by what he saw. The world suddenly opened, widened, deepened.

He became ill. A doctor was summoned. "You are a doctor?" "Yes." "You are a Mexican?" "Yes," answered the baffled physician. Victor thought that, though all Mexicans might not be farm workers like his friends on his father's place in Oceanside, it was unlikely they would be persons in the professions.

New realities shook him. The discovery of books catapulted him into dawning understanding of human landscapes and feelings, strivings and failures. A conflicted teenage functional illiterate he started down an endless road to finding himself. In writing.

He drove himself for decades ten hours a day, six days a week untying, re-ordering and retying strings of words. Eventually, some books reached print and modest success. Then, in 1981, he wrote the made-for-TV motion picture *THE BALLAD OF GREGORIO CORTEZ*.

Well-wishers came to the large, old Spanish colonial house on a bluff in Oceanside, California. He paid an emotional tribute to his parents, Salvador and Lupe. He promised he would write their lives. All celebrated the Public Broadcasting System (PBS) telecast. The picture was released to movie houses the next year.

In 1991, ten years later, a more-than-500 page work—parts of it laboriously rewritten more than 40 times—became a milestone in Latino literature. *RAIN OF GOLD* sold more than 200,000 copies in hardcover. Any given copy may have been read by six-to-ten people.

It recounts the Mexican youth of Lupe and Sal: surviving the Revolution, their separate journeys across the Border, how they met on this side. It ends with their marriage in Santa Ana, but not before sketching the personalities of their mothers, Victor's grandmothers. His father's scandalized the faithful at her church in Corona. Her lively conversations—even arguments—with God and Mary did not go unnoticed.

Now, more than another decade has passed. Victor has gone through multiple rewritings of his latest book. It is about Sal, Lupe and their lives in 1929, 1930 and 1931. It is published by HarperBooks.

Salvador has been dead for years. Lupe passed away in 2000. Both are very alive in pages Victor has filled. So is the cosmically talkative grandmother who, together with Sal, finally makes clear to the author what lies behind all he has been writing.

There have been tumultuous first years of marriage not made any smoother by Sal's profession. He's a bootlegger.

Victor remembers what his father often told him: *Casi todos nacen y mueren y nunca abren los ojos. Poca gente abre los ojos porque no usa todo su sentido.* ("Almost everyone is born and dies without opening their eyes. Few people open their eyes because they don't try fully to perceive things.")

What that really might mean became clear in a startling brush with the law. Salvador is driving a truck heavily laden with barrelsful of whiskey in Corona. His well-connected mother is with him. A cop pulls them over.

She begins telling God the officer will not see the barrels and that she needs help for her son and that God owes her one and that she wants it right now! The cop looks in the back of the truck and says, "Nothing here, but you better get some air at a gas station because your tires are almost flat."

Crisis over, Sal asks, "How did you do that?" "Easy," she says, and explains.

"When people finish this book," Victor claims, "They are going to think magic is possible." The title: *THIRTEEN SENSES*.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN B. GOURLEY

HON. JOSEPH M. HOFFEL

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 25, 2001

Mr. HOFFEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate John B. Gourley the Chairman of the East Norriton Township Board of Supervisors for twenty-four years as a distinguished community leader in this Pennsylvania community.

A forty-year resident of East Norriton, Mr. Gourley has served as vice president and twice as president of the Montgomery County Association of Township Supervisors. He was the founder and first president of the Delaware Valley Association of Township Officials which encompasses the Counties of Bucks, Chester, Delaware and Montgomery. Mr. Gourley also founded and was the first vice president of the League of Municipalities which includes 56 Pennsylvania communities. He founded the first Township newsletter in East Norriton and initiated television coverage of township meetings.

After serving five years in the United States Navy, Mr. Gourley built a professional career as a national and executive sales manager in the chemical field. Mr. Gourley has been a dedicated member of multiple civic organiza-

tions including the American Legion Post in Jeffersonville, the Sons of Italy, the East Norriton Republican Committee, and the Boy Scouts of America. He is also a long time member of Visitation B.V.M. Roman Catholic Church.

Mr. Gourley is married to Nancy Pistilli-Gourley and they are the proud parents of John B. Gourley, Jr., Esquire, William Scott Gourley and Ann Marie Gourley. I am pleased to have this opportunity to recognize John Gourley for his outstanding service and commitment.

IN MEMORY OF MR. CHET OBLOCK

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 25, 2001

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Mr. Chester A. Oblock, owner of the infamous Pyramid Cafe and beloved friend, for a lifetime of dedicated service to his community.

Mr. Oblock, a Cleveland native, has been a lifelong resident of the city's South Side. He is perhaps best known for the delicious meals he has been serving in the Pyramid Cafe since 1964. Three years later he began sponsoring the Pyramid Cafe slow-pitch softball team. The team grew and with practice became the first Cleveland team to win the Amateur Softball Association's National Men's Open Slow Pitch Tournament in 1975. In 1987, he was inducted into the Greater Cleveland Slow-Pitch Hall of Fame.

Mr. Oblock was known by his friends for his great love and generosity to all his players, friends, and family. When the team traveled out of Cleveland, he took money out of his own pocket to pay for the families of the softball players to stay in hotel rooms. More important than any of his prized softball games was his family.

Before sponsoring his prize-winning softball team, Mr. Oblock served his nation selflessly in military service. During World War II, he served in Europe with the Army's 104th Infantry Division, the "Timberwolves."

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring the memory of Mr. Chester A. Oblock, a truly great man. Mr. Oblock is a man who truly will be missed in the Cleveland community. His love for not only the game of softball, but for all his community is an inspiration to many. His warm smile and gentle spirit will be remembered by many.

AUTHORIZING THE USE OF UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES AGAINST THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE RECENT ATTACKS LAUNCHED AGAINST THE UNITED STATES

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 25, 2001

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I, like you, have been watching in disbelief and sadness the reports from New York City and Washington, D.C. in the aftermath of the terrible attacks launched against the United States.